Dick Russell
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4/15/92

Dear Dick,

On checking my Dean Andrews file I found a memo I wrote Jim Garrison 3/17/68 in which I reported that Oswald had asked him about getting into Mexico. I had only a dim recollection of this when you phoned last night.

As you asked, I enclose a copy of the memo.

I also call to your attention that in it I raisdd questions about the dependability of anything Andrews said.

I wrote this memo before my break with Garrison.

And I should have said in the first graf not that Oswald had asked Andrews about getting into Mexico but that Andrews told me that Oswald had asked. The difference can be great because it is not easy to take Andrews' unsupported word on anything.

So after all these years you are doing a JFK assassination book and it is on the very colorful Richard Case Nagell!

Carroll and Graf are cornering the market on assassination books, I suppose because they are all doing well.

I do remember Martin from when he was on Garrison's staff and am clear that he had a perfect command of English but with a Latin American accent. He never told me that he had had any connection with the CIA, though.

I remember that he told me that Bringuier was known in the Cuban exile community as "El Estupides," which he translated as meaning "The Stupidity."

I remember also that I was with him one night when he visited an anti-Casrto Cuban who worked for Ochsner.

I have a clear recollection of "Jim Rose," aka E. Carl McNab(b?) and of my belief his word could not be taken on anything. I caught him faking evidence of one of Garrison's zanier theories, of an s/m ring of prominent men extending into the JFK and LBJ administrations. I am certain that it was Bill Turner and the Ramparts people who foisted him off on Garrison and am certain that I can trace it with some searching I would prefer not to take time for. It began with Stanley Scheinbaum at Santa Barbara, as I recall, through of all things- a right-wing talk-show host. Was his name Foley?

From my own OSS knowledge and from my work I do not believe Nagell. The CIA does not work that way. Few spookeries could survive if they did. But who knows- maybe you will prove me wrong.

Will you please be kind enough to send me a copy of the story confirming that Nagell did survive the disintegration of that pane near Baltimore? Amazing!

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg

Richard Case Nagell was caught robbing a bank in Texas. He claimed he robbed the bank so that he would be in jail when JFK was assassinated, claiming prior knowledge of such a plot and attributing it to the CIA. There are some indications that he may have had such a connection but I am not aware of any proof of it. After his release from jail he was arrested in East Germany. His release and return then were handled by a Washington lawyer, Nicey New.

I believe the first alleged connection with the assassination attributed to Nagell was by Ramparts, whose records on the JFK assassination is of irresponsibility and sensationalism.

Thereafter he was interviewed, as I recall often, from the Garrison office by an assistant DA Bill Martin and perhaps others. I am sure that Bud Fensterwald did and went for Nagell's story, perhaps Mark Lane also. Or maybe he was from Garrison when he did.

Nagell did survive the disintegration of an Electra plane near baltimore, surviving as I recall a free fall of about 10,000 feet.

"Jim Rose" was involved in accrediting and feeding a fake book by SDECE, the French counterpart of the CIA, that Garrison originally understood was coming to him from the KGB. In fact, Garrison's activist supporters in the Los Angeles area had a code name for this deal, "the San Diego radio station." KGB was the call letters of the CBS affiliate there. I appeared on it.

(Garrison loved the book, an obvious fake having virtually nothing at all in it about the assassination. He persuaded the Frenchman who use the name Herve Lamarre and was in charge of that project to retitle it from "L'Amerique Brule" to "Farewell America."

Dick Russell was one of the earlier conspiracy-theorist writers, I do not now recall whether on The Village Voice, free-lancing or both. Years ago he was here but I have no recollection of his visit or what he then was writing. Or, with any clarity, what he had by then written.

He now claims to have substantiation for Nagell's story that I do not believe, and that Bill Martin was CIA. He read from notes, roughly some of what I say in the memo he asked me to send him. Because that memo was to Garrison he could have gotten it from innumerable sources, Garrison's files were that open to anyone at all.

The Oswald part of what he is working on is that Oswald made an earlier trip to Mexico than in late September, 1963. Russell says it was in July or August. When I asked him if he was confusing this with a trip there by Kerry Thornley, who knew Oswald briefly when they were in the Marines, he said not.

Russell says his book will be published this fall by Carroll & Graf. Its most recent JFK assassination book is Harry Livingstone's High Treason 2. It also published Jim Marrs Crossfire, a compendium of all the nutty theories and one of the books used by Oliver Stone on his movie JFK.